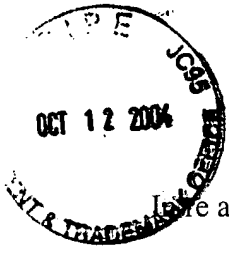


IFW



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application: Charles W. Krespach, et. al Group Art Unit: 3611
Serial No.: 10/690,412 Examiner: Depumpo, Daniel G.
Filing Date: October 21, 2003 Docket No.: 18801-00308
(formerly 242-321)
Title: TOWING ASSEMBLY

Comm. for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

Dear Sir:

I hereby certify that these papers are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on the date below and in an envelope addressed to: Comm. for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Sept. 30, 2004
Date of Deposit

Pat Simpson
(Typed or Printed Name)

Pat Simpson
(Signature)

Documents deposited:

1. Rseponse to Restriction Requirement and Preliminary Amendment (5 pages)



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application:	Charles W. Krespach, et. al	Group Art Unit:	3611
Serial No.:	10/690,412	Examiner:	Depumpo, Daniel G.
Filing Date:	October 21, 2003	Docket No.:	18801-00308 (formerly 242-321)
Title:	TOWING ASSEMBLY		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Restriction Requirement dated August 31, 2004, setting a shortened statutory period for response of 1 month (response due September 30, 2004). As this Response is being filed under a Certificate of Mailing dated September 30, 2004, no additional fees appear due. If any additional fees are required regarding the filing of this Response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 13-0265.

Further, as Applicants submitted a preliminary amendment before receipt of the above-referenced Restriction Requirement, but after the mailing date thereof, Applicants have included the Preliminary Amendment herein. Applicants presume that because the Preliminary Amendment was sent after the Restriction Requirement no amendments were entered and that this Preliminary Amendment will constitute the only amendment to the Applicants' application. Therefore, prior to substantive examination, please amend the present application as follows: